

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An e-mail proxy method for enabling an email proxy to support selectively selective downloading of a multi-part e-mail message to an e-mail client operated by a user from an e-mail server, the multi-part e-mail message including at least one attachment, the attachment being encoded, the email proxy communicating between the email server and the email client, -the e-mail proxy method comprising at the email proxy:

retrieving information of said-the at least one attachment ~~information~~ for the multi-part e-mail message from the e-mail server;

downloading said-the at least one attachment of the multi-part email message from ~~said-the~~ email server;

preparing a formatted message for sending to the e-mail client, said-the formatted message containing a link to the at least one downloaded attachment, such that the attachment is not sent to the e-mail client;

sending said-the formatted message to the e-mail client;

displaying said formatted message to the user by the e-mail client;

_____ decoding said-the at least one attachment to bring about a reduction in the size of the attachment;

requesting said at least one attachment by said e-mail client; and

_____ upon receiving an indication from the email client that the attachment is required sending said-the decoded requested attachment to said the e-mail client.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment information includes the entirety of the multi-part e-mail message, such that said preparing a formatted message further comprises the separating the multi-part e-mail message into a plurality of portions, including at least a first portion containing the attachment.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the multi-part e-mail message includes a text part, such that said preparing a formatted message further comprises the separating the multi-part e-mail message into a second portion containing said text-part, and wherein said preparing a formatted message includes adding said second portion to said formatted message.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said requesting said at least one attachment by said e-mail client further comprises selecting said link by the user from said formatted message.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said downloading at least one attachment from said email server for viewing by the user is performed in a streamed manner.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
providing a Web browser for interacting with the user; and
displaying said attachment by said Web browser, such that said
downloading said attachment is performed according to HTTP.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said
attachment information is a header for the attachment.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said
downloading said attachment from said email server is performed in parallel to
said preparing a formatted message.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said
downloading said attachment from said email server includes decoding said
attachment.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said
attachment information is a header for the attachment, such that the method
further comprises downloading said attachment from proxy to client in a
streamed manner for viewing by the user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A system for selectively downloading a multi-part e-mail message for a user, the multi-part e-mail message including at least one attachment, the attachment being encoded, the system comprising:

(a) an e-mail server for receiving the multi-part e-mail message from a sender;

(b) an e-mail proxy in communication with said e-mail server as an e-mail client, for receiving at least attachment information about the multi-part e-mail message and the attachment, and for preparing a formatted message containing a link to the attachment; and

(c) an e-mail client in communication with said e-mail proxy for said email server for receiving said formatted message from said email proxy and for displaying said formatted message to the user, such that the attachment is selectable to be displayed to the user after the user selects said link.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy downloads the attachment with said attachment information.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy downloads the attachment separately from said attachment information.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the multi-part e-mail message contains a text part, and said formatted message includes said text-part.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy downloads and decodes the attachment before the attachment is sent to said e-mail client.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively downloading a plurality of portions but not an entirety of a multi-part e-mail message to an e-mail client operated by a user, the downloading being from an e-mail proxy of said multi-part e-mail message received at an e-mail server, the e-mail client being in communication with the e-mail proxy in place of the e-mail server, the method comprising the steps at the e-mail proxy of:

retrieving the multi-part e-mail message from ~~an~~ the e-mail server;
separating ~~said~~ the multi-part e-mail message into a plurality of portions;
parsing at least one header from said plurality of portions according to at least one user preference;

preparing a formatted message ~~by the e-mail proxy~~ for sending to the e-mail client, said formatted message containing at least information of said the

plurality of portions but not the entirety of ~~said~~ the multi-part e-mail message;

and

sending ~~said~~ the formatted message to ~~said~~ the e-mail client, therefrom to
allow the e-mail client to selectively access the plurality of portions.